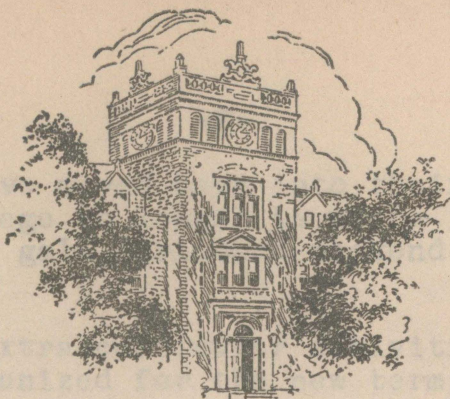


To the

# FRONT



from

## MUHLENBERG

December 1, 1944

Number 49

Greetings to you everywhere:

This is the kind of a letter we like to write. We won't have to hunt around for a single alibi or offer one apology. There's nothing but good news this time, and that's the way it should be as we approach the Christmas season. That's the kind of news you fellows have been giving us from all parts of the world. The kind of news you are making is the real important kind, but we believe you like to hear our kind too.

We've been leading up to the basketball season which got underway last Friday night. This year's edition of the Cardinal and Gray court team looks plenty good. We say that because we won our first two games, defeating Juniata 64-34 in the opener and Drew 45-16 on Wednesday night. Tomorrow night we play Princeton which opened its season to Rider College, 40-39. The game will be played in Allentown's Rockne Hall.

There have been a lot of questions about this year's basketball possibilities. Personally, we think they are good although we don't think anyone should expect the kind of a team we had last year. Those things don't happen every year at any college. We're confident, however, after watching the boys go to work, that we'll end the season with our share of victories under our belt. There are some rough spots, but they will be ironed out before the season gets too far along.

When practice started, Coach Julian had nearly 30 applicants, including some former scholastic stars from Pennsylvania and New Jersey schools. From those he has culled nine varsity players, most of them civilians: Apprentice Seaman Ray Baldwin, rangy six-footer from Kentucky State Teachers College who rattled off 12 points in the first game and 13 in the second; Chuck Thiesen, a civilian from Ridgefield Park, N.J., who piled up 14 points in the first game and eight in the second; Charlie Gillen, a civilian and former Philadelphia scholastic star with 16 points to his credit in the first two games; Johnny Bird, former Bethlehem High star and also a civilian; Apprentice Seaman Dick Whiting, for two years the star of Lower Merion High School teams; Al Julian, the coach's son who sparkled last season for Reading Catholic High school and who is a civilian at Muhlenberg; Bob O'Brien and Jim Doran, civilians and former Cliffside Park, N.J. players; and Tex Rickert, a civilian from St. Albans, L.I., N.Y.

We'll try to keep you up to date on the scores as quickly as possible. By the time the next letter begins rolling out we'll be able to tell you about the games with Princeton, in Allentown Saturday night; Penn State at State, December 6; Lehigh in Allentown, December 9 and Princeton at Princeton, December 13. Any of you fellows who may happen to be in the New York area may be interested in seeing the game with St. Francis in Madison Square Garden, Saturday night December 16.

Still in the field of sports, Allentown's Downtown Quarterbacks selected Apprentice Seaman Chester Makoid, an end on the 1944 football team, as the team's outstanding player and presented him with a ring at its annual dinner meeting.

Except for routine work and study, very little has happened on the campus during the past two weeks and that gave us the opportunity to devote a good bit of this page to basketball. After this we'll probably have space to give you little more than the scores.

Some of you may be interested in knowing, however, that fraternities again are active. Phi Kappa Tau held a rush smoker the other night and Alpha Tau Omega is busy with the same kind of activities. A

few civilian ATO men have moved back into their house at 23rd and Chew Sts., now that the College no longer is using it as a dormitory unit. The boys are planning a gala Christmas weekend for their own group and for their alumni.

In every quarter extra-curricular activities are going ahead. The band has been reorganized for the new term; the new staff is publishing the WEEKLY every Friday; and the Mask and Dagger Club is holding tryouts for the cast of "Romeo and Juliet" to be presented the end of January. A debating schedule also has been planned.

For sometime we have been meaning to ask all of you fellows for pictures. To get our files to the point we'd like to have them, we would like pictures (in uniform) of every Muhlenberg man in the armed forces. From time to time we'd like to publish pictures like that but it is difficult to find them. Will you give us a break by sending us a picture or by asking your mother or wife or girl friend to cooperate. Of course we'd like head and shoulder pictures, if you have them, but we will settle for snapshots too. Don't be bashful. Give us a break. We'd like to see how you look.

We just made an interesting discovery. By checking records during the past few months we have added many graduates and former students to the Alumni roster--men who for some reason or other were not in the alumni files before. The other day we started counting and discovered that we have 5,672 living Alumni, 1624 of whom are in the armed forces.

It seems that all we have been doing the past two weeks has been reading letters and answering them. That should mean that the mail bag is heavy, so here it is:

Rain, snow, mud and Jerry still have operations slowed down in Belgium--or at least they did on November 13 when LIEUTENANT CLARK DIEFENDERFER '42 sent us his last report. Incidentally, Diefenderfer is still trying to meet a Muhlenberg man over there--all of which proves how big the theatre of operations really is. Perhaps he will get to see LIEUTENANT BURTON SEXTON who claims to have a swell job with an Air Transport Command in France. He and HAL SIMCOX '40, a pilot captain with the Air Transport Command, had a little get-together in France a few weeks ago and get to see each other occasionally.

LIEUTENANT (j.g.) AL BUSBY '42, busy on some secret assignment, says it's easy to sell Muhlenberg. Our most regular correspondent in the Pacific, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) WILMER CRESSMAN '42 crashed through with an eyewitness story of the invasion of Leyte. We're trying to get a Navy O.K. on the job to pass it on to you in the next letter. Wonder of wonders--even Cressman admitted it--there wasn't a single bit of sarcasm in all three pages of the letter. Another article you can look for in the January issue of the Alumni Magazine is the first in a series of G.I. Joe's impressions of India, by CORPORAL E. PHILIP BOLLIER '43. It's a swell story and we think you will enjoy reading it. For some of you who may go to India before this war ends, it may provide a few good tips.

SERGEANT RALPH W. KIEFFER '29 is now flying missions over Germany. In London recently he and GUERNEY CLEMMENS '28 had an old-fashioned get-together. SERGEANT THOMAS MEREDITH '42 has made some interesting discoveries since he has been in England: that English coffee has the same flavor as coffee ice cream; that English pastry, when you can get it, is tasty; that fish and chips or Spam and chips becomes boring after awhile. He'd like to convert the Army to the English custom of afternoon tea. TIPPY JOHNSON '31 is another Muhlenberg G.I. in England. Tippy, believe it or not, says that England appears to be altogether as charming as its boosters have preached, for these many years.

ENSIGNS JACK CLIFFORD '42 and CHUCK MORAN '43 are still meeting people down in their little South Pacific harbor. This month they found BLAIR KRIMMEL '43 and on the day he left FRANK NEUMAN of the same class blew in. These Muhlenberg men really do get around. SERGEANT GEORGE O. ZANGER '34 is about to begin his third winter in Canada. He

doesn't mind it too much because his wife is with him. On December 4th they will celebrate their first wedding anniversary. His job is expediting the mail and everything that goes with it. As the pilot of a Flying Fortress, LIEUTENANT RALPH D. HAAF '46 is seeing the war from the skies over Europe. His biggest thrill was his part in one of the Russia to Italy shuttle flights. Missions like that, Haaf wrote, broadens one's viewpoints on the part America's allies are playing in this struggle for a decent world.

SERGEANT CLEVE KENNEDY '43 also has some eyewitness accounts of war in Europe. Starting in France, he ultimately moved into Belgium, then fought for awhile in Holland, and now is in Germany waiting to board the Berlin Express. On a Christmas greeting from Italy, CORPORAL RAYMOND SCHOLL '46 reports that conditions are much better than he expected with good food, swell living conditions, and all-around satisfaction. CHAPLAIN JOHN H.K. MILLER '32 also is in Italy. He was particularly impressed by the fact that Italians keep pigs as pets and care for them the same way that his youngsters take care of their dog--or would if they had one.

Over in Belgium, LIEUTENANT JOHN S. BRADER '40 has charge of all the athletics and entertainment for the command with which he is serving. Among other things, he routes and books all shows and movies, a job that he says keeps him on the jump. SERGEANT WILLARD H. HAAS '39 has seen plenty of action since he went overseas in October 1942. He took part in the invasion of North Africa, participated in the Sicilian campaign and then went to England to help train other medics, took part in the invasion of France with the D Day troops and then continued through France and Belgium and into Germany, participating in all the major battles. In March 1943 he was awarded a citation for outstanding service in one of the Mediterranean campaigns.

On the other side of the world, SERGEANT TUSS BECKER '43 played golf and tennis and did a little betting on the horses while he enjoyed his vacation in a rest camp. SERGEANT HAROLD HELFRICH '44 learned to ride a horse while he sojourned in a Himalayan rest camp. My knowledge of Hawaiian has been enhanced by a letter from CHAPLAIN L.F. GERHART '22. For example--women are wahines, food is kaukau, akamii is clever, kamaaina is old-timer and mahalo (thanks) that's enough for this time. LIEUTENANT KERMIT KISTLER '38 got the sea duty he requested and keeps busy as chief medical officer, decoder, censor, and librarian. ROY WERTZ '31 also is getting his first taste of salt and is looking forward to an old-fashioned bull session with EARL RITTER and TIPPY JOHNSON up on Fritz Meckley's farm.

LIEUTENANT (j.g.) JACK SLAINE '43 has been doing night flying off what is known as a "jeep carrier" but all he can tell us about it is that it is a lot tougher than history lectures or exams. At long last we have heard from CAPTAIN PAUL FATZINGER '31, still holding down the fort in India. He is expecting to add some novelties to the Alumni Office collection of coins and currency from all parts of the world. Yes, we still have it and we're still adding to it. LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK M. BROWN '19 reports, for the benefit of your wives, that in Italy fresh eggs cost 27 cents each, fresh fish is a dollar per pound, and cigarettes sell for 88 cents a pack. He bought the Leaning Tower of Pisa (reminds me of buying radiators in the dormitories) but the one he got was only two inches high and was made of alabaster.

Now to come back to the States for a little while.

ENSIGN BOB HALE '44 has done a good bit of travelling about the country since he was commissioned on June 29 and now is in Florida where he is receiving some additional training. He has been meeting plenty of Muhlenberg men--at Asbury Park where he was on the regimental staff and at Northwestern University. At his base in Miami he only has to go around the passageway to see Ralph Ellis, who was a member of the V-12 unit at Muhlenberg. He is the authority for the information that Paul Candalino's wife Eleanor is a good cook. He had a sample of it. Candalino is still on the staff at the Pre-Midshipmen's School at Asbury Park. PRIVATE JAMES E. FREDERICK '42 found another reason to be grate-

ful to Muhlenberg. On October 20 he was married to Emily Holcombe (Cedar Crest '42) whom he claims to have met and courted in the Muhlenberg chapel. Jeff now is in the war orientation room at the Army Air Forces Convalescent Hospital at Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

PAUL MORENTZ, in the Navy pre-chaplaincy unit at Mount Airy Seminary, has issued a communique reporting that he and Bert Gilbert and Edgar Brown are still fighting the Battle of Germantown but turned the redcoats back with heavy losses. IRA G.T. WEISMANN '47, continuing his training in the hospital school at Bainbridge, says that Muhlenberg may be a small school and not too famous, but to Muhlenberg men it rates right up on top. We agree that it is small and that it rates on top--but all of you fellows and the men who went before you are certainly making it famous.

LIEUTENANT BILL SWOISH '41, stationed at Camp San Luis Obispo, California, has covered a lot of ground since he has been in the Army--and he's still looking for a Muhlenberg man. There'll be big news from SERGEANT WARREN FLOWER '42 one of these days--so watch for it. The sergeant is still stationed at Fort Monmouth, N.J. and that makes more than one person happy. We speak in riddles--just keep your eyes open for the next chapter in the mystery yarn. TECHNICAL SERGEANT WALTER WOLFE '29 has been assigned to the contracts termination section of the Army's Contract Audit Branch and is attached to the Eastern Office. At present he is detailed to a plant in Paterson, N.J. Out in Sioux Falls, PRIVATE EUGENE GALLAGHER '42 is preparing to become a radio operator mechanic gunner. It sounds as if that could be a stiff course.

In the last letter--remember--we rambled on at such length that we were unable to give you the list of promotions and they are important. Our records show that of 819 Muhlenberg men in the Army 318 hold commissions, 216 are non-commissioned officers and 22 are cadets or officer candidates. Of the 613 in the Navy 222 are commissioned officers, 105 men with ratings of specialists or petty officers, and 138 midshipmen or air cadets. The 131 Muhlenberg men in the Marines include 19 commissioned officers, six non-commissioned officers, and several score of men now in officer candidate classes.

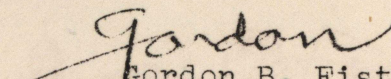
But we started to list the promotions of the last four weeks and here they are: FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT DILLINGER '34; ENSIGN JOHN SCHWENK '43; SERGEANT RALPH KIEFFER '29; SERGEANT WILLARD H. HAAS '39; SERGEANT GEORGE O. ZANGER '34; STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT M. GRIER '46; FIRST LIEUTENANT CLARK R. DIEFENDERFER '42; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN C. ROWE '46; SEAMAN FIRST CLASS LEON ROSENBERG '34; SEAMAN FIRST CLASS RICHARD WAGNER '46,

Here are the names that have been added to the service roster since the last issue of the Alumni Magazine (you should receive it shortly) went to press:

Y2/c Albert Besbris '41, TTU 1, CD 2468, Camp Parks, Calif.  
Gurney W. Clemens '28, Address Wanted  
S2/c Charles R. Lange '44, USNFPs, Univ. of Ga., Athens, Ga.  
Donald G. Peter, Co. D, Bn. 194, Rgt. 61, Camp Blanding, Fla.  
Lt. Russell F. Stoudt, 1801 Timrod St., Corpus Christi, Tex.  
Pvt. Charles A. Wagner, 33942105, Sec. N., Chanute Field, Ill.  
Earl Adams '48, Address Wanted  
A/S Richard S. Lashley '44, Co. P. Brks. 30, Sec. 1, Camp Macdonough  
A/S George Sinichko '44, College Stn. Box 378 Duke Univ., Durham, N.C.  
S2/c William Schmidt '44, Co. 2063, Great Lakes, Ill.  
Ensign J.J. Mikatavage '43, c/o FPO, San Francisco, Calif.

That's the story for this time. You'll be hearing from us again before Christmas if the post office department will be able to get the mail through. We'll wait until then to send you that Merry Christmas wish. Best of luck to all of you and we do like to hear from you so that we can relay the news to the other 1624.

Sincerely,

  
Gordon B. Fister  
For the Alumni Office